



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL-BASED DECISION MAKING NEWSLETTER

**October 2011**

## School Council and District Assistance Available for Understanding Program Reviews

Kentucky's new accountability model is designed around four strategic priorities: Next-Generation Learners, Next-Generation Professionals, Next-Generation Instructional Programs and Supports, and Next-Generation Schools and Districts. Program Reviews are one of the Next-Generation Support Systems priorities.

Program Reviews have been written for three areas: arts and humanities, practical living/career studies and writing. They serve these important purposes:

- improving the quality of teaching and learning for all students in all programs
- allowing equal access for all students to the skills that will assist them in being productive citizens
- allowing student demonstration of understanding beyond a paper-and-pencil test
- ensuring a schoolwide natural integration of the program skills across all contents, beyond all the program areas

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), in collaboration with Kentucky Educational Television (KET), has created five modules focused on program reviews.

- Module 1 is an overview of Program Reviews as outlined in Senate Bill 1.
- Module 2 takes a closer look at the content of Program Reviews and offers guidance on how to successfully conduct them.
- Modules 3, 4 and 5 cover the individual Program Review areas: arts and humanities, practical living/career studies and writing.

Any SBDM member or other district employee can complete all five modules. A minimum of three can be used as the required experienced member annual training. The modules can be accessed at no cost at [www.ket.org/encyclomedia](http://www.ket.org/encyclomedia).

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What steps should a district SBDM coordinator take with untrained new school council members?

A: Pursuant to KRS 160.345, new school council members with no prior school council service must receive six hours of new member training within 30 days of the start of the service year. It is recommended that the district SBDM coordinator document all training communication between the principal and the new member (e.g., e-mails, letters, notices, face-to-face conversations) related to completing this requirement.

If a new school council member has not completed the required training after several correspondences, the district SBDM coordinator, with the school principal, should schedule a meeting with the new school council member to review what the statute requires and the documented communication between the school and the school council member related to completing this requirement. During this discussion, based on the council member's comments and/or explanations, you may want to give the new member one last opportunity to receive the training. If the school council member continues to refuse or be unavailable to complete the required training, the district SBDM coordinator and principal may want to move forward with the school council member removal process [KRS 160.347].

## Review Achievement Gap Targets

The improvement planning process has begun for schools across Kentucky. As a reminder, Kentucky's Achievement Gap Targets legislation, KRS 158.649, became effective July 15, 2002, requiring all school councils to set biennial targets eliminating achievement gaps. For the current biennium, achievement gap targets were to be set by February 2011. Senate Bill 1 (2009) did not change KRS 158.649 during the interim period, 2009-2012. Schools must still follow the requirements set forth in the Achievement Gap Target statute. School councils will use "percent proficient" rather than "academic index," as the language related to assessment has been changed. If you have questions concerning this requirement, contact Mary Jo Rist at [maryjo.rist@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryjo.rist@education.ky.gov) or at (502) 564-3791.

## Update on Operation Preparation

KDE is committed to ensuring all students have the 21st-century skills necessary to be college/career ready.

Earlier this year, every school district in Kentucky signed the Commonwealth Commitment – a pledge to increase the college/career-readiness of our high school students by 50 percent by 2015. Advising is one of several key strategies used to reach this goal. KDE and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet have set aside the week of March 12-16, 2012, for Operation Preparation – a community-based advising initiative. This week will focus attention on the importance of advising and provide a powerful opportunity for schools, students, parents and communities to collaborate in the college- and career-planning process. During Operation Preparation, trained volunteer community advisors will meet one-on-one with 8th- and 10th-grade students in a public setting at school. Using the students' Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), they will talk with the students about their career aspirations and required

education/training; whether the students are on target to meet their goals; and whether the students are taking the courses recommended to prepare them for their future.

For more information on Operation Preparation, contact Sharon Johnston at [sharon.johnston@education.ky.gov](mailto:sharon.johnston@education.ky.gov) or at (502) 563-2106.

**For questions concerning SBDM, contact us at:**

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